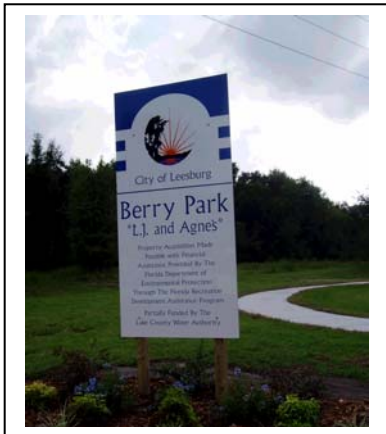


Tuesday, September 02, 2003

Leesburg Dedicates Berry Park

Leesburg's recreational facilities are growing by one new park this month. The Berry Park is a passive recreation facility that has a concrete walking path, a wooden bridge, a fountain and handicap parking. All of these amenities are situated among a field of oak trees that surround a large pond. Last Saturday members of the community planted Southern Magnolias, Red Robert Crepe Myrtles, and a Golden Dew Drop that bears yellow berries.

What makes this park truly unique is that it was designed originally as a retention pond for stormwater for the Carver Heights area. "When the City started to design the stormwater system for this area, we always had in our mind that someday this could be a beautiful park", stated Robert Johnson, Deputy City Manager.



At the July 28th Commission meeting, the City officially named the park, "Berry Park" after two community supporters that have worked to see the park vision become reality. Agnes Stevens Berry and Lonzia James Berry have been instrumental and are largely due the credit for the implementation and construction of the park. Mrs. Berry was appointed Chairperson of the Carver Heights Area Neighborhood Association at their first meeting in June of 1997 and still holds that seat.

Mr. Berry serves on the Carver Heights and Vicinity Community Redevelopment Agency.



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On August 6, 2003, the City of Leesburg Recreation & Parks and Police Department held the Carver Heights Night Out and Berry Park Dedication Celebration. Free food, drinks, games and music followed the program.

A \$50,000 State grant assisted the City of Leesburg with construction cost. Additional improvements to the park planned for this year, include a sheltered picnic pavilion with tables.

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